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BERIAH BROWN

I want a brief biographical sketch of Beriah Brown to whom you allude in *The Movement for Statehood, 1845-46*. From other sources I knew he was one time editor of the *Wisconsin Democrat*; aside from that he was somewhat of a notable character in the early political life of Wisconsin.

I also know that he came to the Pacific coast about 1862 and soon became editor of a paper called the *Democratic Press*; that his strictures upon the government's conduct of the Civil War were very severe—rabid, I should say—he was classed as a rank copperhead at that time; that his printing office was gutted on April 15, 1865, because his attacks upon Lincoln were so violent; that he fled to Mexico at once; that he came to Portland in the fall of 1866, and was editor of the *Oregon Herald*, democratic, for about two years; that he was connected with other papers to some extent, but in no case did he stay in any one place very long.

The last I knew of him was when he was living in Seattle, and was being taken care of by his son, A. N. Brown, and died a number of years ago. At present I do not know where young Brown is.

I knew him in person in 1866-68, and frequently as a compositor placed his manuscript in type. He took a great deal of pride in his editorial career and often had a good deal to say of his "powerful influence" in the early legislative days of Wisconsin; also was eager to let it be known that he "frequently measured lances with Greeley, Bennett, Weed, Dana, Raymond, Bryant," etc., and did not come off second best.

GEORGE H. HIMES

Curator and Assistant Secretary
Oregon Historical Society

Beriah Brown, third son of Beriah and Martha Ashmun Brown, was born at Canandaigua, New York, February 21, 1815. In 1829 he was apprenticed as printer in the office of the *Batavia (N. Y.) Advocate*. The following year he assisted in the establishment of the *Erie Observer* where he met Horace Greeley, then an apprentice in another office; an intimacy was formed between the two boys which lasted through life. He assisted in the publication of the *Batavia Advocate* for a time and in 1835 removed to Michigan where he established the *Tecumseh Democrat*. In 1839 he joined his brother, John A., in the publication of the *Niles Intelligencer*. In 1841 he removed to Iowa County, Wisconsin, where he engaged in mining and was made county clerk in 1844. He resigned this position in 1845 and purchased the *Mineral Point Democrat* which he removed to Madison in 1846 and changed to the *Madison Democrat*. He made his paper the organ of the "Tadpole" or "Progressive" Democracy and waged war against the *Argus*, styled "Old Hunker." The radical

measures which his paper advocated were adopted by the first constitutional convention and resulted in the rejection of the constitution. The factional warfare which centered in these two papers continued for some years, but in 1852 the *Argus* and the *Democrat* were united with Beriah Brown as editor. In 1855 the paper was sold, and after various changes, in 1860 Brown established the *People's Press* in Milwaukee and purchased a half interest in the *News*. In the winter of 1862 he removed to Stockton, California, where he was engaged as editor of the (Stockton) *Republican*, the only Democratic paper in the state. The establishment was removed to Sacramento in 1863 where the material was subsequently broken up and thrown into the street by a mob. After this Brown removed to San Francisco and established the *Democratic Press*. This establishment also was totally destroyed by a mob in 1865, and the editor was forced to flee for his life. After a few months in Mexico he returned and became joint publisher of the Santa Rosa *Democrat*. In 1866 he accepted a call as editor and general manager of the *Oregon Herald* at Portland; in 1869 he established the *Democrat Press* at Salem, Oregon. Repudiation of the state debt in 1870 caused him to leave that state and his party. He edited the *Standard* at Olympia, Washington Territory for a year and in 1871 established the *Puget Sound Dispatch* at Seattle, which was merged in the *Intelligencer* in 1878, of which he was senior editor.

In 1879 and 1880 Mr. Brown was mayor of Seattle. The next year he retired from active life, and died February 8, 1900 at the home of his son, A. N. Brown, at Anaconda, Montana.

THE KNAPP-STOUT & CO. LUMBER COMPANY

Can you tell me something about when the Knapp-Stout Company located at Menomonie, the number of men they at times employed, including their camp crews, and their use of printed duebills? Is it true that they had the largest sawmill in Wisconsin?

H. R. HOLAND

Ephraim

In the spring of 1846 Capt. William Wilson was ascending the Mississippi on a steamboat when he was told of the great stand of white pine on the Chippewa and its tributaries. He left the steamboat at Nelson's Landing and went across country on foot to the Red Cedar, where on the site of the present city of Menomonie he found